

International Bookbinding Competition 2021

the Society
of Bookbinders



 @SoBcompetition

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How to Enter

Please register your interest in entering the International Bookbinding Competition 2021 by subscribing to the mailing list. This is the main way we will update you with the latest Competition news and information. You can subscribe to the mailing list, and find more information, at www.societyofbookbinders.com/international-binding-competition

All subscribers to the mailing list will be sent an entry form at the beginning of April 2021, and the form will also be available to complete on the Society's website.

Deadline to complete your entry form

Friday 30th April 2021

Please send us your book(s) to arrive with us between:

Monday 10th May - Saturday 15th May 2021

Please do not send books until you have completed an entry form!

For any enquiries please contact Competition Organiser Ben Hendy: competition@societyofbookbinders.com

Awards

Prize fund of **over £6,500**

Fine Binding

First Prize – Shepherds Bookbinders Ltd
(The John Coleman Trophy)

Value: £900

Second Prize Value: £400

Book Arts

First Prize – John Purcell Paper
(The Portnall Award)

Value: £900

Second Prize Value: £400

Case Binding

First Prize – The F.J. Ratchford Trophy

Value: £900

Restoration

First Prize – George Bayntun
(The Bernard Middleton Trophy)

Value: £900

Historic Binding

First Prize – The ABA Educational Trust

Value: £900

Green's Books Award for Best Newcomer

Value: £355

Fine Cut International Award

for Finishing

Value: £150

Harmatan Leather Award for Forwarding

Value: £175

Incline Press

Dave Godin Memorial Award

for Animal-Free Binding

Value: £250

J Hewit & Sons Award

for Excellence in Design

Value: £175

J Hewit & Sons Award

for Excellence in Craftsmanship

Value: £175

Competition Categories

A. Fine Binding



Entries in this category should be a binding of a contemporary nature in a codex form displaying an excellent standard of craftsmanship, along with an outstanding overall concept and design. Entries will be judged on the quality of the concept and design, the forwarding, finishing, craft skills, and use of materials.

B. Book Arts



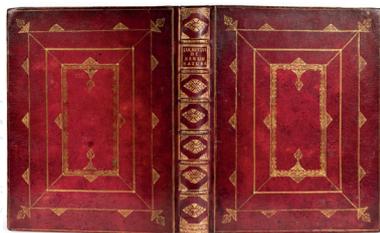
Both the content and the binding should be designed and executed by the entrant. Entries need not be in codex format and will be judged on the quality of the concept and design, the content of the book, the binding, craft skills, and use of materials.

C. Case Binding



Entries in this category must incorporate bookcloth and be of a case-bound structure, i.e. the cover made separately from the text block and joined by attaching the endpapers to the cover boards. Entries will be judged on the quality of the concept and design, the forwarding, finishing, craft skills, and use of materials.

D. Restoration



Any binding repaired in a way that returns the book to a former or original condition. Entries will be judged on the suitability of the repairs, the aesthetic of the restored book, craft skills, documentation, and materials used. Entries must be submitted with photographic documentation prior to restoration, along with a full written record of all work undertaken.

E. Historic Binding



Entries should be a high-quality binding of a traditional nature. Bindings can display an element of creativity but must show excellent re-creation of a period of binding or historical structure, as well as a high standard of craftsmanship. Entries will be judged on the faithfulness of reproduction, the forwarding, finishing, craft skills, and suitability of materials.

About

Since the International Bookbinding Competition started in 1999 it has developed into one of the most successful regular exhibitions of the craft. The Competition runs in conjunction with the Society's biennial Conference and attracts entries from countries all around the world.

Its success has been in the variety of work represented, with fine binding sitting happily alongside restoration and book arts. This year there will be thirteen prizes awarded over five categories as well as prizes for forwarding, finishing and design.

Each entrant will receive a free copy of the fantastic exhibition catalogue containing colour photographs of every book submitted to the Competition. These beautiful, high-quality images will illustrate perfectly the wide-ranging breadth and creativity in contemporary bookbinding, and will be available to purchase at all Competition exhibitions as well as online from J Hewit and Sons Ltd.

Circumstances are currently extremely unpredictable, but if possible we will announce the prize-winners at the Society's Conference at the University of Bath, UK, 19th – 22nd August 2021. Entrants will be notified if they have won a prize prior to the event. If the Conference is limited to online activity a full list of prize-winners will be published at the same time.

All books entered into the Competition would normally be shown in the exhibition at the Conference, but this is subject to Covid-19 restrictions. However, they will in any case be exhibited online. Non-winning bindings will either be collected from the exhibition or posted back to the entrants, but prize-winning bindings will then travel to a number of venues across the UK, on a touring exhibition. Further information and dates will be published on the website, via the mailing list, and on the Competition's social media.

Entrants submitting work to the Competition do so in the knowledge that if their work is selected for an award, it will be retained by the Society for the touring exhibition and will only be returned following the final venue.

Photographs of winning books and all entries will be taken for use on Competition promotional material.

Full entry details and instructions for delivering your books will be released nearer the time. Please subscribe to the Competition mailing list or check the Society's website and social media for latest news and updates.

Sponsorship gratefully received to date

ABA Educational Trust
Bernard Quaritch Ltd
Boekenmarkt – Boektotaal
Dominic Winter Auctioneers
Fine Cut Group Ltd
F J Ratchford Ltd
George Bayntun Booksellers
G.F Smith
Green's Books
Flora Ginn
Harmatan & Oakridge Leathers 2008 Ltd

Royston Haward
Incline Press
Jemma Lewis Marbling and Design
J Hewit & Sons Ltd
John Purcell Paper
Leicester Print Workshop
London Centre for Book Arts
Louise Brockman Marbled Paper
David and Maureen Nye
PaperBack
Payhembury Marbled Papers

Peter Harrington Rare Books
Russells Fine Leathers
Shepherds Bookbinders Ltd
Stuart Southall
The Stationers' Foundation
Sara Tupper in memory of Maureen Duke
William Cowley Parchment and Vellum
Wyvern Bindery
Dr William Zachs
... and many kind anonymous sponsors

Competition Rules

- The Competition is open to anyone except the judges and organisers.
- The winning books will be decided at the discretion of the three judges only.
- Entries must not have been submitted in, or have any known association with, any other bookbinding competition.
- The deadline for submitting an entry form is 30th April 2021. Your book(s) must be delivered between 10th – 15th May 2021.
- More than one entry is permissible. Fees for entry are £55 for the first book and £30 for subsequent entries. The entry fee includes one catalogue per person. All work submitted must have been completed within two years prior to submission.
- Work done by other hands is acceptable but must be declared.
- A completed entry form must accompany each entry.
- Your name must not appear on any part of your work.
- A newcomer is defined as a person who has, within the last three years, started learning bookbinding/restoration/ book arts from scratch, and has not yet entered another competition.
- All costs for delivery and return of entries must be borne by the entrant.
- Work must be submitted in a protective box or case, which will be used for its return.
- Prizes take the form of cash, goods and vouchers and are subject to variation at the discretion of the organisers.
- The Society will take care to keep entries safe; however, all work is submitted at the entrant's own risk. Entrants are advised to insure their bindings as the Society does not accept responsibility for loss or damage incurred during the Competition or subsequent exhibitions.